

Public and private sectors  
must work together... pg 3



Enjoy Aruba's  
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Aruba's National Council  
for Innovation... pg 3

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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Islanders gather for the celebration of Betico Croes Day



Prime Minister Eman with Betico's sons Gilberto Jr and Glenbert



Island dignitaries join along with Special dancers



Jenny Kock and Mom



A tradition of Aruba's national holiday dedicated to "El Libertador" Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes, is a cultural evening featuring typical folkloric music and dance, of which he was a great proponent.

Island dignitaries and the public gathered to enjoy the performances by amateur and professional dance troupes and singers, often costumed in the colors of Aruba's flag or traditionally historic dress. The various groups were an example of established and beloved orchestras and dancers, as well as the vision of the youth towards integrating modern music and dance styles with native themes.

The Plaza Betico Croes sported booths with locally made handicrafts and native cuisine for a festive, street fair ambiance, where islanders welcomed all who came to enjoy the celebration of local culture and traditions.

by Rosalie Klein

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## We get mail

A guest staying at our resort, Playa Linda Beach Resort, had a beautiful experience with an Aruban Taxi driver who went the extra mile. The guest wanted to make sure the story came out in the news papers to tell everyone about how nice the people are on our island.

This is the story.  
Thanks,

*Yvette Tromp,  
Concierge / Wedding Planner*

When the guest arrived on Aruba, on Sunday, the airline had lost their luggage and they came to our hotel. The airlines brought their luggage the next day. However, that Sunday night when they were in the room, they discovered that he had lost his wallet. He thought they had left it in Miami, where they were the night before.....

Later, the next day....the front desk called the gentleman and said someone was there to drop off a gift for him! He went downstairs and there was the taxi driver with his wallet!!! The taxi driver drove all the way from hotel to hotel to find out if someone

knew the guest; our front office clerk recognized the guest and returned the wallet. The guest wrote this:

**"Aruba, I have always loved you. Your people have been the foremost reason for me and my wife's return each year, for the last 34 years. This year Joseph, taxi driver #182 wins my award for outstanding Aruban.... Thank you Joseph, for returning my wallet from your taxi and to the staff at Playa Linda front desk for assisting me.**

**Thanks!!!**

## Egypt police, protesters clash demanding Mubarak's ouster



**CAIRO, Egypt --** Egyptian demonstrators yesterday protest in central Cairo amidst tear gas fire by Egyptian police to demand the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak and calling for reforms. The protesters, carrying flags and chanting slogans against the government, rallied in a protest inspired by the uprising in Tunisia which led to the ouster of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. (AFP PHOTO)

## Coca-chewing Bolivians press for end to UN ban

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AFP) - Bolivians chewed coca leaves in demonstrations around the country yesterday to push for a change in a 1961 UN convention to remove a ban on a practice that has been part of indigenous cultures here for millennia.

Protesters gathered outside the US embassy in La Paz to chew the leaf as part of a day of demonstrations around the country celebrating the coca plant and demanding that the UN Single Convention on Narcotics Drugs be amended.

The United States has said it would oppose the Bolivian proposal, calling the 50 year old convention "an important tool in the global struggle against narcotics trafficking."

The agreement designates the coca leaf as a narcotic, and calls on countries to eradicate coca leaf chewing.

Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca has been visiting European capitals, seeking support for the amendment. The United Nations has until January 31 to decide whether to change the treaty.

"The countries support us so that we can de-penalize coca chewing; the only one opposing us is the United States," said Leonilda Zurita, a coca grower and a leader of the ruling Movement Toward Socialism party.

Marches in La Paz, Santa Cruz and other cities drew coca growers, peasants, Indians, miners, makers of coca-

based products, activists and lawmakers from the ruling party.

The coca leaf (*Erythroxylum coca*) is part of everyday life for people in the Andean region. An estimated seven million people in a region stretching from southern Colombia through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, northern Chile and Argentina chew coca leaves, as did their ancestors going back many generations.

Known for its stimulating and blood oxygenation properties, the little green leaf is loaded with vitamins and 14 alkaloids.

Chewed coca releases a mild narcotic which serves to combat altitude sickness, hunger and fatigue.

## 5 dead, 16 trapped in Colombia coal mine blast

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) - Five miners were killed and 16 were trapped after an explosion in a coal mine in north-eastern Colombia on Wednesday, local officials told AFP.

Another five people were injured and hospitalized, according to the mayor of Sardinata, Yamile Rangel, who had originally said 30 miners were trapped.

Rangel said four had been confirmed dead at the scene, and a fifth died en route to a hospital.

The explosion may have been caused by an accumulation of methane gas, Rangel said.

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## Public and private sectors must work together according to Minister Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer



In recent years the world has witnessed the power of innovation revolving around the business world and economies. Innovation has also given power to the individual, to communities and has impacted countries, the business arena, governments and societies everywhere. What has also become obvious is the role that innovation plays in the rapid economic growth and in the development and promotion of economic sustainability.

Aruba has also witnessed various innovative initiatives in different sectors both public and private which transcends to our economy and society to include new business endeavors with commercial risk investments; as well as to new products and services of established concerns.

A few examples in the service industry will include businesses of lucrative name brands, digital news channels, banks, commerce and the utility company and a vast number of specialized consultancies in the area of marketing, branding, human resource management and personnel management.

Another example is the creative industries who were witnesses of the rebirth of digital art and young entrepreneurs in fashion and photography.

In the area of technology and telecommunication, our economy has seen a diversification in telecommunication and in IT service. There has also been the introduction of innovative mobile systems. The government of Aruba has also

taken advantage of the new developments and introduced the so called e-Governance and the web based Parliament and information system. National innovation has gone way beyond the economy by reaching into our communities and the general environment fortifying the three basic pillars: the economy, society, and the environment for sustainable development.

From the environmental perspective, we have witnessed the introduction of green energy with the installation of wind turbines and the re-design of the Parke National (National Park) with its visitors' reception and service areas.

Another innovative initiative was the establishment of our Marine Park and the conservation of our marine life.

In terms of sustainable tourism, we are seeing our hotels and tourism operators exploring and or implementing "green" technology such as solar energy to reduce expenses and improve efficiency in their operations.

The Minister also mentioned the "Ban Uni Man pa Cria nos Muchanan" foundation (Let's Unite to Feed our Children), which is a foundation dedicated to providing a healthy breakfast to many of our less fortunate school children, and the remodeling of the YMCA to expand on their community services. Aruba, the minister indicated, has experienced innovation in our education as well with the introduction of Tourism major,

## Aruba's National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness Setting the stage for captivating, creating and catalyzing entrepreneurship



It is no secret that over the past decade the world has faced significant change, and business and economic landscapes are being reinvented on a daily basis. With the advancement of the knowledge economy, the world is also seeing how innovation empowers individuals, communities, industries and economies with profound impact on countries, governments, and society. What is equally evident is the increasing role that innovation plays in accelerating economic growth and promoting sustainable economic development.

In the current global economic situation, policy makers and business leaders recognize the need to create strong and sound institutions to support the adoption of innovation and spread their benefits across all sectors of society. Research by Prof. Dr. Peterson on national innovation in island economies indicates that entrepreneurship is critical to jobs and growth in Caribbean, and enterprising governments can play a productive role in supporting new businesses and setting the stage for captivating, creating and catalyzing entrepreneurship.

Yet, oftentimes limited access to capital and cumbersome regulations limit the creation of new companies in the region. Beyond financial capital, the national attention needs to shift towards the development of new business models facilitated by new technologies and an increasingly more sophisticated markets, according to Peterson. In addition, without significant investments in human capital, high-quality jobs, and improved training and (higher) education, no amount of regulation or technology will create innovation and catalyze sustainable

competitiveness. Consequently, the importance of national innovation has achieved prominence on the public policy agenda, with the realization that the right policies and enabling institutional and business environment can help countries fulfill their national potential, rise above and beyond with resilience, and enable a better quality of life.

In light hereof, and considering the economic imperative to innovate and improve the international competitive position of Aruba, and taking into account ambitions of the Government of Aruba to stimulate sustainable economic development, improve economic conditions for business investments and innovation, and the quality and competitiveness of our industries and business sectors, the Ministry of Economic Affairs recently installed a National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness (NCIC), consisting of the following experts from industry, gov-

ernment and academia:

- University of Aruba, Prof. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson, (chairman)
- Department of Economic Affairs, Mrs. Zulema Dabian-Erasmus, MA
- Aruba Trade & Industry Association, Mrs. Joyce Bartels-Daal, BA
- Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV, Mr. Edward Erasmus, MA

The mission of the NCIC is to contribute to the realization of the foregoing vision for sustainable and innovative economic development, and provide a public-private platform between national economic and industry stakeholders. According to Minister Hooyboer Winklaar, the collaboration between national stakeholders and the creation of new knowledge-driven institutions and platforms for business development will catalyze economic innovation, build economic resilience, and crystallize our international competitiveness as a gateway towards an economically sustainable future.

The goals of the NCIC can be broadly defined according to three general strategies:

1. Design and execute a business economic development forum for economic innovation, consisting of strategic roundtables, executive seminars, and innovation lectures with international leading agencies and entrepreneurs;

*Continued on page 4*

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## Exciting and affordable surfside dining at

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The stylish new eatery that has taken over the Surfside area across from the Talk of the Town is still evolving; since opening in November they have been steadily completing renovations, and now the pool bar is open.

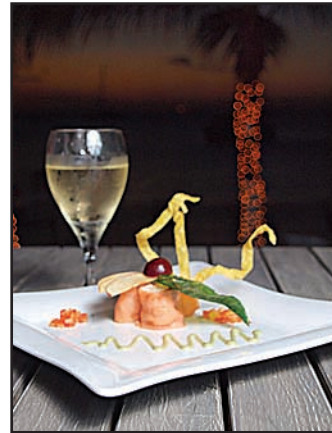
What struck us when we first paid a visit to this entrancing beach side locale 2 months ago was the thought "Finally, a place worthy of the Surfside!" Nikky Beach Owner Jan has a very distinct vision of what he wants to offer his patrons; an affordable gourmet restaurant with a charming,

congenial ambiance that will keep them coming back.

We sampled three dishes that left us mighty impressed, beginning with The Nikky Japanese Roll, shrimp stuffed into thin slices of smoked salmon with wasabi aioli. This was followed by the Sesame Maguro Tartar, marinated fresh tuna served with a refreshing seaweed salad and an absolutely yummy concoction of Chef Paul, a firm, soy flavored mousse that perfectly complemented the fish.

Lamb Chops Acropolis, garnished with Tzaaiki sauce, provided an innovative twist on this favorite dish. The rest of the menu is just as inventive, and Jan has imported renowned Curaçao chef Mikel de Leur of Papagallo Restaurant to add even more distinctive dishes to an already appealing menu. Very soon, a full sushi menu is to be added to their inventory as well.

What will also leave an impression is the reasonably priced menu and bar; Jan is very sensitive to the needs of his devoted local trade as well as potentially new friends. A fresh grouper platter is only \$17, and you can enjoy a very



**Nikky Beach Roll**



**Tuna tartar with seaweed salad**

satisfying and stimulating dining experience for an equally satisfying price.

Nikky Beach is taking advantage of their amazing location by punctuating the weekends with a variety of entertainment, which makes it a great place to watch the sunset or relax with friends until well after dark. Ernesto Farro, well known on Aruba for his mellow guitar, is a regular, and they are experimenting with a number of performers that will make an evening even more enjoyable. You can check out their full menu and upcoming events on their website: [www.nikkybeacharuba.com](http://www.nikkybeacharuba.com). They are open seven days a

week, serving brunch, lunch and dinner from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling 582-0153 or e-mail [reserve@nikkybeacharuba.com](mailto:reserve@nikkybeacharuba.com).

Aruba's southern shore sports a number of waterside restaurants sought out for their romantic, tropical ambiance. Nikky Beach has all the assets of many these places, a lovely setting and marvelous food. One can also end the evening fully satisfied by an impressive meal that won't give your wallet such a wallop, and it is conveniently located on the eastern end of Oranjestad, so there is no need to travel very far; definitely worth a try.



## Elmar discovers power failure in High Voltage Cable

Exactly two months ago Elmar (Electrical Company) had a similar power outage in their major cable which supplies electricity to WEB for the substation in Palm Beach. This time another cable, in Sabana Blanco was the culprit.

This power failure caused the suspension of power in different barrios around the island. Elmar's technicians worked diligently on Saturday and Sunday trying to discover the exact area where the failure occurred.

This cable is approximately 30 years old, and employs the old system, namely, the old



technology of "Oil filled cables." A rigorous investigation indicated that the failure was due to a probable "leak" of the "sleeve." Elmar decided on Saturday evening to bypass a section of this cable so as to be able to administer electricity to the affected areas. However, the real cause of the failure is still unknown.

Elmar is cognizant of the fact that these cables are very old and must be replaced. As a matter of fact, Elmar is investing millions every year in an effort to improve her electricity distribution through more modern systems. Several months ago, the company replaced an exact type of cable as the one in question which

ran from WEB to the substation in Paardenbaaistraat. Elmar is currently using the most modern technologies available today which require much less maintenance with the possibility for obtaining replacement equipment readily when needed. The company's employees have also been trained in the proper use of the advanced systems and are well equipped to handle any situation of failure.

Elmar invests 15 million florins annually to improve her equipment and distribution of electricity. With these changes, Elmar, through the use of new and modern technology, is able to actualize her systems and offer her clients reliable solid and quality electricity and service.

Elmar hopes to find the exact location of the recent failure during the ensuing days that caused the sudden power outage. The company extends her sincerest regrets and apologies to all her clients for the inconvenience suffered as a result of the power failure.

## Aruba's National Council...

Continued from page 3

2. Establish a business entrepreneurship quality innovation program, to recognize best practices and excellence in local entrepreneurship, and stimulate the adoption and diffusion of innovative business practices;

3. Design and execute a business platform for economic intelligence data collection and analysis, and establish a national program for measuring, monitoring and benchmarking Aruba's international and regional economic and industry competitiveness, according to international economic standards.

In addition the NCIC is also in the process of designing and developing a dynamic economic framework for sustainable economic development, innovation and competitiveness, which will guide socio-economic policies, and provide both government and enterprises with strategic insights and sustainable strategies for business development and innovation, in sync with national policies for innovation and competitiveness. The NCIC will work in close collaboration with other national and in-

ternational economic partners, including the Central Bank of Aruba, the Central Bureau of Statistics, in addition to other relevant public agencies, industry associations, and private enterprises. To strengthen Aruba's international ties, the NCIC will also work in close collaboration with the Dutch-Aruban embassy in the United States and the Netherlands, and international economic agencies, such as the World Economic Forum, the Americas Forum on Competitiveness, and the other global competitiveness agencies.

Consequently, the NCIC aims to institutionalize national innovation partnerships and build resilience by leveraging our cumulative economic and intellectual assets to create collaborative competitiveness. Our long-term goal is to foster value-added business productivity, develop and innovate industries across the economy, expand our trade and strengthen international relations, develop and diversify our economy sustainably, and improve the quality of life for all who share this beautiful island, according to Prof. Dr. Peterson.

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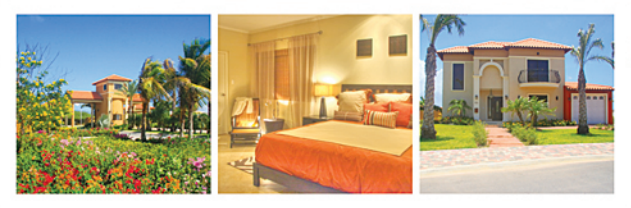
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## Islanders gather for the celebration of Betico Croes Day

Continued from page 1



Aruba's Father of Culture with family and friends





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## Sci-Tech

### Memories hold better during sleep

PARIS (AFP)--The best way to not forget a newly learned poem, card trick or algebra equation may be to take a quick nap, scientists surprised by their own findings reported on Sunday.

Their study, published in Nature Neuroscience, provides new insights into the hugely complex process by which we store and retrieve deliberately acquired information - learning, in short.

Twenty-four volunteers were asked to memorise 15

pairs of cards showing pictures of animals and everyday objects. While performing the exercise, they were exposed to a slightly unpleasant odour. Forty minutes later, half the subjects who had stayed awake were asked to learn a second, slightly different pattern of cards.

Just before starting, they were again made to smell the same odour, designed to trigger their memory of the first exercise.

The 12 other subjects, meanwhile, did the second exercise after a brief snooze, during which they were exposed to the odour while in a state called slow-wave sleep. Both groups were then tested on the original task.

Much to the surprise of the researchers, the sleep group performed significantly better, retaining on average 85 per cent of the patterns, compared to 60 per cent for those who had remained awake.

### US doctors turn X-Box game into PTSD therapy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US doctors are treating soldiers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder by plunging them back into combat using a virtual reality game that simulates scenes from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The therapeutic game, called Virtual Iraq or Virtual Afghanistan, was developed from the X-Box game Full Spectrum Warrior, a combat tactical simulation game launched with funding from the US Army.

Virtual Iraq or Afghanistan uses images de-

livered via a head-mounted display panel to plunge soldiers back into combat zones in Iraq or Afghanistan and recreate the traumatic experiences they had while at war, the project's lead researcher Albert Rizzo said Tuesday.

"At first blush, it seems counter-intuitive: why would you make somebody go through an approach where one of your goals is to make the patient feel a little bit anxious as they revisit their traumatic experiences?" the University of Southern California professor told re-

porters.

But researchers have found that by progressively raising a patient's feelings of anxiety up to a moderate level while simultaneously encouraging the patient to mentally process and talk about their traumatic experience, they can bring down anxiety levels and decrease PTSD symptoms.

Those manifestations include recurring nightmares and flashbacks, emotional numbing, avoidance of places that stir memories and hyper-vigilance.

### will.i.am teams up with Intel



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Technology fan will.i.am, the

frontman of The Black Eyed Peas, is teaming up with US computer chip giant Intel.

"I just became the Director of Creative Innovation for Intel," will.i.am said in a message on his Twitter feed @iamwill on Tuesday.

"Every beat I make is made with Intel. And now we're partners," he said.

Intel said the hiring of will.i.am was "an extension of his insatiable fascination with technology."

"Will.i.am will engage in a multi-year, hands-on creative and technology collaboration with Intel," the company said in a statement, and is "already working on music expressly for Intel."

"Nearly everything I do involves processors and computers, and when I see an Intel chip I think of all the creative minds involved that help to amplify my own creativity," will.i.am said.

"Teaming up with the scientists, researchers and computer programmers at Intel to collaborate and co-develop new ways to communicate, create, inform and entertain is going to be amazing," he said.

An estimated 20 to 30 per cent of soldiers who have fought in Iraq or Afghanistan come home with the mental disorder, according to US military estimates.

Three randomized control trials of the virtual reality therapy games are currently underway.

And in one study, 16 of 20 soldiers who were treated with the simulator game developed by Rizzo and others at USC's Institute for Creative Technology no longer met PTSD criteria at the end of therapy.



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## Health &amp; Living

## US doctors turn X-Box game into PTSD therapy

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## Personalities urge new ways to tackle drug abuse

GENEVA (AFP) — A group set up by former Latin American leaders and personalities including Virgin chief Richard Branson recommended that consumers of illicit drugs should not be treated as criminals. The Global Commission on Drug Policies felt that the prevalent repressive approach

to drug abuse was failing, members said after their two-day inaugural meeting here.

The group of ex-politicians and intellectuals was set up this week to promote new ways of tackling drug abuse, following a similar regional venture in Latin America.

Colombia and Peru are the

two largest sources of cocaine in the world, producing an estimated 400 tonnes of the illicit drug in 2009, according to the United Nations.

Brazil's ex-president Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who chairs the commission, said addicts should be treated like people who are ill and offered

health care.

The commission also includes Mexican former president Ernesto Zedillo, ex-EU foreign affairs chief Javier Solana and former Norwegian minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, as well as Nobel literature laureate Mario Vargas Llosa and writer Carlos Fuentes.



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## Aruba's special athletes stop the show at the Betico Day Cultural Event



Dancers with minister and PM



Special olympics volunteers

Thousands of islanders and vacationers flocked to the Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad on Tuesday evening to share in the celebration of Aruba's first national holiday of the year. Dedicated to the memory of Gilberto Francois Croes, "El Libertador," the evening event is a gala street fair featuring festive booths selling local food, refreshments, art and original handicrafts, while the islanders enjoyed a program of music and dance from various groups and individuals.

One particular early act was an absolute showstopper, which had the island dignitaries in the audience dancing along in their seats. A troupe of Aruba's special athletes, who are now busy raising funds and support to send a delegation to the International Special Olympics to take place in

Athens this coming June, brought home the point they are very capable on the sport field and stage. Their enthusiastic performance of a classic waltz and to typical island music earned them a huge hug from Prime Minister Mike Eman following their performance, and Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, who has a special relationship with the island's special athletes prior to her political career.

The Aruba Special Olympics Committee was well in evidence and very popular at their fundraising booth as well. All those with an appetite for good and old fashioned Criollo dishes lined up to enjoy their dinner at the festive cultural event, while supporting their special athletes in their goal to



Tuyo Werleman, President of the Special Olympics Committee and Netty Williams Vice president



"Go for the Gold in Greece 2011!"

Three young students from Aruba's EPI School, Daphne Peterson, Xandra Croes and Starlyne Cores, organized the dance troupe as part of their training in social services. Female dancers were Vanessa Bernabella, Zavy Maduro, Direllis Geerman and Joanne Kock paired with Jeffrey Croes, Diangelo Baptist, Reynold Wernet and Ruben Tromp. Their exuberant pleasure at the audiences' appreciation was joyously expressed.

by Rosalie Klein

## Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist. Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese.

Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the

finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in the sauce. If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.







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## De Palm Tours Champions Environmental Cleaning



**Boca Cura before clean-up**



**Cleaning-group in action**



Alto Vista -- De Palm Tours, Aruba's largest tours and transportation company performed a much-needed public service on December 24th, when it asked its members of management, employees and their family members to volunteer their time for a clean-up of the island's charming Boca Cura and the North-Eastern coast.

The wind-swept area which is toured daily by island visitors serves as the ocean's deposit for floating marine debris, plastic, bottles, and driftwood brought in by the currents of the Caribbean seas, and dumped on the shore.

While driftwood, shells and coral washed in by the ocean are welcome, plastic and glass is not!

Thus De Palm Tours made a decision to stage a seasonal cleaning just before the end of the year.

All debris was diligently picked up by De Palm's cadre of volunteers who scoured the small bays and beach-fronts just behind the historical Alto Vista church.

When the clean-up concluded, a truck-load of trash was escorted to the dump.

Visitors and locals may now enjoy an improved vista, courtesy of De Palm Tours.

Pictured here the cleaning action in full swing, and the before and after images.



**Garbage collected of the bocas s**



**Side of Boca Cura after cleaning**



**Cleaning-group posing**



## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

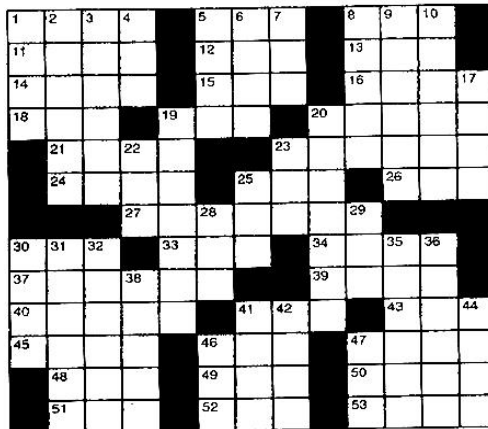
1. Land measure
5. Spring
8. Harbor city: abbr.
11. U.S./Canadian Indian
12. Long time
13. Pitch
14. Constructed
15. Music, e.g.
16. Particular time periods
18. Conclude
19. Exist
20. Serenity
21. Slithery ones
23. Infuriate
24. Use scissors
25. Pose
26. N.Y. hours: abbr.
27. Bad guy
30. Be mistaken
33. Beam
34. Units of corn
37. Jumped
39. Advertising light
40. Watched secretly
41. Fido, e.g.
43. Beret's kin
45. Orient
46. Protective covering
47. Unadorned
48. Neckline type

## DOWN

49. Mineral source
50. Unit
51. Double curve
52. Cozy room
53. Emperor-musician
1. Highest point
2. Long-legged birds
3. Blush
4. Shoe width
5. Scorch
6. Small opening
7. Picnic spoiler
8. Horse
9. Procession
10. Goes over
17. Transmitted
19. Hoped
20. M.D.'s concern
22. Caesar's 54
23. Actress Farrow
25. Cunning
28. Young fellow
29. Highland refusal
30. Otherwise
31. Surface again
32. Lifts
35. Turn
36. Trapper
38. Rozelle and Rose
41. Peel

It's a DOUBLE!!!

42. First address
44. Short note
46. Seed container
47. Storage area



## ACROSS

1. carte: 2 wds.
4. Seed coat
8. Dressed
12. Baking utensil
13. Commanded
14. Possess
15. Placed
17. First man
18. Public decree
19. Grows old
21. Guided
23. Special occasions
27. Delighted
31. Worship
32. Take food
33. Armed conflict
35. Golf term
36. Fumes
39. Amid
42. British sixpenny piece
44. Female deer
45. Charles Lamb
47. Freedom from conflict
51. Highest point
54. Clutched
56. Repast
57. Small mountain
58. City in Oklahoma
59. Taverns
60. Story

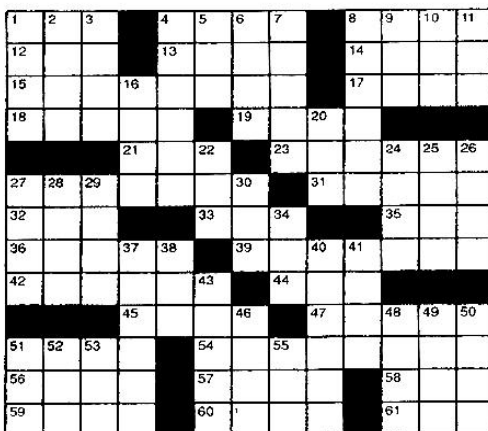
61. Punctuation mark: abbr.

## DOWN

1. Church projection
2. Deposited
3. Opposed
4. Decreases
5. Rodent
6. Notion
7. Shelf
8. Pursued
9. Youth
10. Actress Gardner
11. Political party: abbr.
16. California school: abbr.
20. Miss Gabor
22. Early morning moisture
24. Memorandum
25. Woody plant
26. Witnessed
27. Nuisance
28. Tibetan monk
29. Short jacket
30. Small amount
34. Bright color
37. Genus
38. Snake-like fish
40. Collapse
41. Sob
43. Correct
46. Opera melody

48. Cry of woe
49. Yield
50. Dutch cheese
51. French friend

52. 100 yrs.
53. Male
55. Everybody



## BOTICA

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Care Center  
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Important  
Telephone  
Numbers

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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
Tel. 587-4300

## EMERGENCY

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POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100

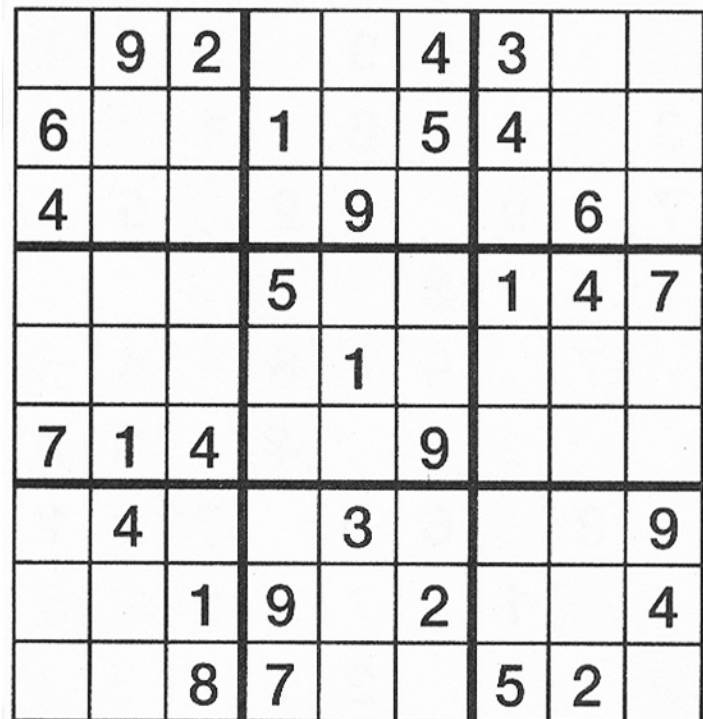
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582-5447  
In San Nicolas  
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602  
professional taxi services  
Tel. 588-0035

## Al Anon Meetings

Mondays 6-7pm  
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord  
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

8	2	9	1	7	4	8	9	6
7	8	9	2	5	6	1	4	3
6	1	4	8	3	9	7	2	5
9	5	2	6	8	3	7	1	4
8	3	6	4	1	7	9	2	5
4	7	1	9	2	5	6	8	3
1	9	8	3	6	2	4	7	5
2	6	7	9	4	1	8	5	3
5	4	3	7	9	8	2	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.





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## Finance

### WORLD BRIEFS:

**DAVOS:** The annual meeting of world elites at the Swiss ski resort of Davos opens with executives highlighting a power shift from the advanced world to the emerging market economies as recovery takes hold.

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister David Cameron defends his government's plan to aggressively cut state spending to reduce a record deficit, despite the economy shrinking at the end of last year.

**THE HAGUE:** Environmental groups accuse Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell of destroying lives and the environment in the Niger Delta, urging Dutch MPs to intervene as the company defended its record.

**TOKYO:** Toyota Motor says it will recall 1.7 million vehicles worldwide over concerns about possible fuel leakages, in the latest setback for the troubled Japanese auto giant.

**SEOUL:** South Korea's economy grew at an eight-year high of 6.1 percent last year, the central bank says, but slowed in the fourth quarter as retail sales, manufacturing and construction dipped.

**GENEVA:** The number of Internet users worldwide has mushroomed to reach the two billion mark, the head of the UN's telecommunications agency, Hamadoun Toure, says.

**ROME:** The UN's food agency publishes a guide for policy-makers in developing countries to help address negative impacts of high food prices but admits there is no one solution for all countries effected.

**BRUSSELS:** Europe's competition watchdog uses a rare veto to block a merger between Greece's biggest carriers, Olympic Air and Aegean Airlines, saying it would create a quasi-monopoly.

**MADRID:** A dozen investment funds are interested in investing in Spain's troubled regional savings banks, which have until September to raise capital or face state intervention, a newspaper reports.

**AMMAN:** The Mediterranean Union's first leader, Jordan's Ahmad Masa'deh, has quit the job after one year in office, saying conditions for the post had changed.

**ANKARA:** A set of central bank measures to reduce Turkey's economic vulnerability by curbing "hot money" inflow and a lending boom are bearing fruit, Turkey's economy chief was quoted as saying.

**ABIDJAN:** One of Ivory Coast's two presidents, Laurent Gbagbo, ordered the requisition of branches of a regional bank holding some of the country's assets, but his rival said they were closed.

## FOR SALE

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## Google on a hiring high



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Google said it will hire a record number of people this year, taking on more than 6,000 workers "across the board and around the globe."

The Internet giant added more than 4,500 "Googlers" to its employee ranks in 2010 and plans to easily eclipse that figure this year, Google senior vice president of engineering and research Alan Eustace said in a blog post.

"It will be our biggest hiring year in company history," he said. "We'll hire as many smart, creative people as we can to tackle some of the toughest challenges in computer science."

Google's top hiring year to date was 2007, when the company added 6,000 employees, according to Eustace.

Information about jobs at Google was available online at [google.com/jobs](http://google.com/jobs).

The list of Google projects set to challenge new workers included building a Web-based computer operating system, instantly searching more than 100 million gigabytes of data, and "even developing cars that

drive themselves."

"Google is still the same entrepreneurial company it was when I started, encouraging Googlers to take on big ideas," Eustace said, noting that he was hired eight years ago when the firm had barely 500 employees.

Word of the Google hiring blitz and talk of maintaining a startup spark came as co-founder Larry Page prepared to return to the company's helm in April.

While more profitable than ever -- with nearly \$30 billion in revenue last year -- Google is under pressure from new rivals such as Facebook and Twitter for the attention of Web surfers, advertising dollars and engineering talent.

In naming Page, 37, to be chief executive, analysts said Google is seeking to return to its startup roots and ensure its place amid a constantly evolving Internet landscape.

Outgoing CEO Eric Schmidt, 55, was brought in to run Google in 2001, when it was battling other, now defunct search engines, while Page and fellow co-founder Sergey Brin were just a few years removed from Stanford University.

Schmidt is widely credited

with helping build the company into the technology titan it is today alongside the likes of Apple and Microsoft.

While Schmidt is expected to remain an influential voice at Google as executive chairman, the Mountain View, California-based company is turning to Page to stay ahead of its competitors over the next decade.

Danny Sullivan, editor-in-chief of technology blog SearchEngineLand.com, said Google's biggest challenges now are to "prove that they've got their Mojo back and that nobody needs to fear them."

"You have investors and others saying 'Gosh, Facebook seems to be doing so well. Why aren't you the hot new thing?'" Sullivan said.

In a conference call with financial analysts after the announcement that Page would replace Schmidt, co-founder Brin indicated the company would be putting more effort into the social arena.

"We've touched just one percent of the capabilities that could be deployed in that realm," said Brin, who will be in charge of strategic projects and new products in the revamped management structure.

## Obama visits factories, to talk economic recovery



WASHINGTON (AFP) – President Barack Obama travels to middle America a day after his State of the Union address, in a bid to show how his policies are helping revitalize the US economy.

The trip comes a day after Obama urged the United States to reinvent itself and unite to survive in a fast-changing global economy powered by rising giants like India and China.

Obama was set to arrive at mid-morning in the northern

state of Wisconsin, where he will tour three factories that the White House says are growing thanks to tax incentives that encourage companies to invest in "green" energy.

In Manitowoc, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) north of Chicago, Obama was scheduled to visit Orion Energy Systems, a power technology company that according to the White House "designs, manufactures and deploys energy efficiency and renewable energy technology for commercial and industrial business."

Obama planned to tour the site and talk to employees about the economy, then visit a wind turbine factory and an aluminum plant where managers expect to increase their work force this year by 30 percent.

Separately, Vice President Joe Biden is to visit a factory that builds high-end electric batteries mainly for "green"

vehicles in the state of Indiana.

The visit comes after Obama said in his speech that Americans "need to out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world."

During his speech before Congress, Obama said the world economic order has changed in a generation and called his country to invest and innovate to be the challenge posed by globalization and the rise industrial countries like China and India.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

AGHA	GAPER	CHAT
INAN	ALONE	AERO
RAIN	UPSET	NEIL
STRAIGHT	TSOLDE	
TEA	ICON	
QUIRES	ACES	TVA
UNDER	SPIN	ARIL
ADDS	FEINT	BOLT
SILY	RING	BELLE
IDS	WENG	CELLAR
DONE	CAN	
ARCANE	GORILLAS	
ROOM	TIARA	EASE
ELAN	INGOT	ANTA
SETS	CASTS	FEAT



## Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!



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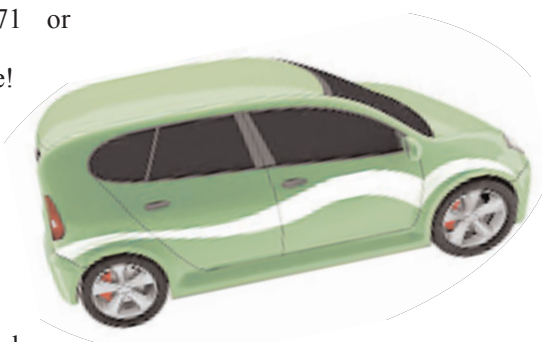
For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales director John Kelly at (297) 583-9971 or email: [sales@diviarubaresidences.com](mailto:sales@diviarubaresidences.com)

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- Beach towels service
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- Green keeping
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## Italian wants divorce after honeymoon with mother-in-law

ROME, Italy (AFP) – A furious 36-year-old Italian woman has filed for divorce just a month after her wedding because her husband brought his mother on their honeymoon.

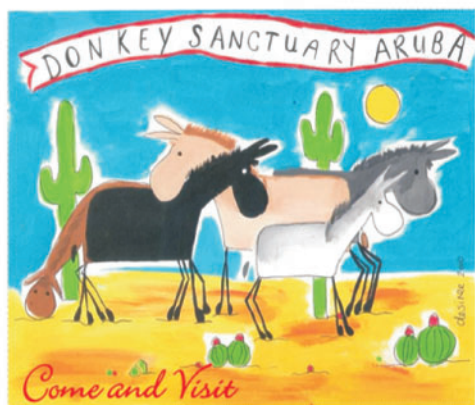
As the couple set off for their honeymoon to France in December, the newly-wed was shocked to find her new mother-in-law at Rome's Fiumicino airport, all set to come

on the trip.

When she protested, her husband of two days said he couldn't leave his mother alone for health reasons.

The three spent the honeymoon together, but as soon as they returned from France the woman filed for divorce, citing an "excessive emotional attachment" between her future ex-husband and his mother





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## British MP urges wine sell-off to cut the deficit



LONDON (AFP) – A British lawmaker called on the government to sell off its wine collection to help reduce the budget deficit, as he revealed it contains bottles worth tens of thousands of pounds.

Tom Watson, a member of the opposition Labour party, revealed that the wine cellar contains a bottle of Chateau Petrus 1978 worth more than £2,500 (\$3,900 dollars, 2,900 euros), among other top vintages.

Watson said Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government should sell off the best wines as part of its cost-cutting drive to pay off a record budget deficit.

"They should sell the good stuff to make ends meet. As the economy heads back into recession nobody will seriously believe that we are all in this together when ministers are quaffing wines at £200 a bottle," he said.

Next to a bottle of Chateau Latour 1955, worth about £1,000, is a note reading: "Drink on v. special occasions. Spectacular: no need now to hasten rundown of tiny stock. 'The essence of wonderful claret'. Fresh and lovely."

Meanwhile a bottle of Chateau Palmer 1975, which costs upwards of 120 pounds, is described as a "really old-fashioned style claret, rich and excellent with some austerity".

One unnamed prime minister writes that a Chateau Margaux 1961 is "silky".

There are also a number of bottles of champagne on the list, which Watson obtained after a year-long battle with government officials, including magnums of Krug 1982, and Louis Roederer Brut from 1990.

## Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem have baby boy

MADRID, Spain (AFP) – Oscar-winning Spanish film stars Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem have become the parents of a baby boy, their first child, in Los Angeles, Spanish media have reported.

Cruz gave birth at the Cedars Sinai medical centre in Beverly Hills in the week-end, the Spanish celebrity magazine *Hola!* said on its website.

It gave no details on the name of the boy or his birth weight.

The birth came just three days before Bardem received his third Academy Award nomination, for his performance in the film "Biutiful" by Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

Cruz, 36, and Bardem, 41, met when they starred opposite each other as lusty teens in the Spanish film "Jamon, Jamon," back in 1992.

In 2008 they were back together on the silver screen in Woody Allen's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona", for which Cruz won an Academy Award as best supporting actress.

The couple married in July last year at a ceremony in the Bahamas.

Bardem, also nominated for an Oscar in "Before Night Falls" (2000), won an Academy Award in 2007 for his role in "No Country for Old Men."

Spain's leading daily, *El*



*Pais*, also reported the couple had become parents but did not provide details as to when the baby was born or whether it was a boy or a girl.

It said "friends of Bardem began to suspect (the baby was born) when the actor did not respond to any calls to congratulate him on his (Oscar) nomination".

"The couple want to have as much privacy as possible," the paper said on its website, quoting family sources.

The agency representing the couple in Spain declined to comment on the reports.

The actors had kept their romance quiet for years, but Bardem got personal when he won a best actor award at

Cannes film festival in May for his role in "Biutiful".

"I share the joy of this prize with my friend, my companion, my love, Penelope Cruz," Bardem said at the time.

"I owe you so much, and I love you very much," Bardem said, drawing tears from Cruz, a longtime muse of Spanish director Pedro Almodovar.

*Hola!* said Cruz's mother, Encarna, sister Monica, also an actress, and her brother Eduardo were in Los Angeles for the birth at Cedars Sinai, the hospital of choice for Hollywood stars.

It said Bardem's mother, the well-known Spanish actress Pilar Bardem, traveled from Madrid to meet her grandson.

## Zsa Zsa Gabor sells house 'because we're not rich'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) – Ailing actress Zsa Zsa Gabor and her husband have put their Bel Air mansion up for sale because they can no longer afford the mortgage and her medical bills, he said.

The house is on offer for 28 million dollars, Prinz Frederic von Anhalt said, showing reporters around the 28-room, 12,000-square-foot mansion in a plush area surrounded by homes to the rich and famous.

"I am sick and tired of hiding behind those three words, 'rich and famous,' he said. "Maybe we are famous, but we are not rich."

Gabor's medical care costs about \$21,000 a month, and the mortgage and upkeep on the house take another \$35,000. "We are talking about \$56,000 I have to raise every month," he said.

"This is why I have to sell the house. It is a must."

The one condition for the buyer was that the ageing pair be allowed to remain in the house. "The new owner has to pay for everything," he said, voicing confidence that some-



**Zsa Zsa Gabor and Prince Frederic von Anhalt after their August 1986 wedding**

one would offer to buy. "Everybody is filthy rich around us, and so somebody is going to (want) the house," he said.

The couple decided to sell after the 93-year-old actress had most of her right leg amputated earlier this month, due to an infection that doctors determined would have killed her had it not been treated.

The flamboyant star -- who was read the last rites during a health scare last year -- has been in hospital since just after the New Year due to the infection.

The health of the Hungar-

ian-born actress has been deteriorating for a number of years. She was partly paralyzed in a car crash in 2002, and suffered a stroke in 2005.

Last July she was hospitalized after she fell and broke her hip. She underwent hip replacement surgery but suffered more complications, including a blood clot for which she had more surgery.

During another hospital stay in August, she called in a priest to administer last rites, then left the hospital a day later insisting that she wanted to be back in her Bel Air home.

Gabor's long career includes spots in a dozen films and TV series, including John Huston's 1952 "Moulin Rouge" and the 1958 film noir "Touch of Evil" by Orson Welles. She also lent her voice to several animated films and TV series.

But the platinum blonde is especially known for her flamboyant lifestyle, legal troubles, nine marriages and a propensity to call just about everyone "darling" with her distinctive accent.

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Published Monday thru Saturday



## PGA hopes for Tiger boost even if Europe's best absent

LA JOLLA, California (AFP) – A return to form by Tiger Woods should give the US PGA Tour a boost as television negotiations loom and top Europeans drop US events, US PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said Tuesday.

Woods makes his 2011 debut at the 5.8 million-dollar Farmers Insurance Open, played on a Torrey Pines course where he has won seven times before, and comes off a winless 2010 campaign that saw US golf TV ratings dip.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, a rising young star, did not help matters by post-

ing a Twitter message on Tuesday saying he will not play in the Players Championship in May, an event world number one Lee Westwood of England has also said he will skip in 2011.

Woods helped bring golf record prize money by sending ratings skyrocketing when on form, winning 14 majors to put himself only four off the all-time major win record owned by Jack Nicklaus.

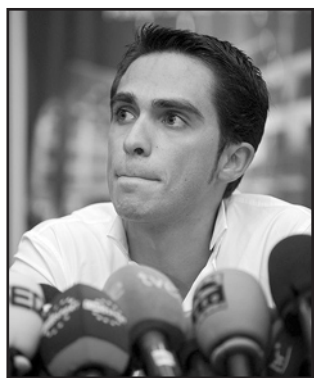
A Woods run at the Nicklaus record could produce dramatic television and bring back some fans who fled last season when a sex scandal rocked Woods' good-guy

image and contributed to the first winless year of his 15-year career.

"Tiger out for a big chunk for the first part of the year and then not playing at his normal level had an affect on our ratings," Finchem said, adding that strong Winter Olympic and American football TV ratings created a "perfect storm" to trim viewership numbers.

If Woods does not have a strong 2011 season amid TV contract talks, it could hurt the PGA's bottom line, but Finchem said he could not estimate how vital it would be for Woods to have a stellar season.

## Contador informed of punishment: federation



MADRID (AFP) – Tour de France champion Alberto Contador has been told of his punishment for his positive drugs test from the 2010 race, the Spanish cycling federation announced on Wednesday.

The federation did not announce what the punishment was, a spokesman having said earlier that they would leave it up to the cyclist to do so.

Spain's sports media had reported that the rider may be suspended for one year over his positive doping test at last year's event.

"All indications are that

the sanction proposed by the committee will be one year, so he will be stripped of his last win" at the Tour de France in July, sports daily Marca wrote.

The only previous Tour winner to be stripped of their title was Floyd Landis in 2006.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) provisionally suspended Contador in August in advance of a decision on his immediate future by

the REFC after trace amounts of clenbuterol, a banned weight loss/muscle-building drug also used to fatten cattle, were found in a urine sample taken during the Tour de France.

Contador denies any wrongdoing and says he unknowingly ingested the clenbuterol from beef brought from Spain to France during the second rest day of the Tour, just four days before he won his third title on July 25.

## Former ace Clemens faces hearing next week

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Retired baseball star Roger Clemens has been ordered to attend a hearing next Tuesday regarding the defense of charges he lied to US lawmakers when he denied having used performance-enhancing drugs.

US District Judge Reggie Walton will conduct the hearing regarding whether or not Clemens attorney Rusty Hardin should be allowed to cross-examine Andy Pettitte,

a former Major League Baseball teammate of Clemens.

Prosecutors say Hardin should not be allowed to cross-examine Pettitte because he briefly represented both pitchers in late 2007 before the release of the Mitchell Report, an examination into doping by major league players.

The report linked them to using human growth hormone.

Clemens has denied taking performance-enhancing drugs while Pettitte admitted doing so and claims Clemens did so to him as well. Clemens says Pettitte "misremembered" their conversation.



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## Brazilian woman football star Marta joins Flash



The South American playmaker, who turns 25 in February, led the US elite league, Women's Professional Soccer (WPS), in scoring for the second season in a row last year in helping FC Gold Pride win the WPS crown, but the team folded in November.

The flash have taken over Marta's contract and the two-time WPS Most Valuable Player will debut with the Buffalo-based club at Boston on April 17.

WPS will have teams in Atlanta, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and suburban New York as well as the Flash.

Marta helped Brazil to silver medals at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and was the top scorer in the 2007 Women's World Cup.

"We're thrilled," Flash coach Aaran Lines said. "She's an extremely exciting player to watch and is important to the women's game and we are excited for her arrival."

## Henin retires with elbow problem



BRUSSELS (AFP) – Former women's world number one Justine Henin of Belgium retired for the second time on Wednesday, citing an elbow injury that had dogged her since last summer.

"Today, the (medical) examinations are clear and the

doctors are agreed that my elbow is too damaged for me to be able continuing with my passion and my job at a high level," Henin said on her internet site.

Henin, 28, first laid down her racket in May 2008 having won seven Grand Slam singles titles, including four French Open titles, one Australian Open title, and two US Open titles.

On that occasion she said she simply wanted to step back from the professional game having spent 100 weeks as world number one, which was her ranking at the time she first hung up her racket.

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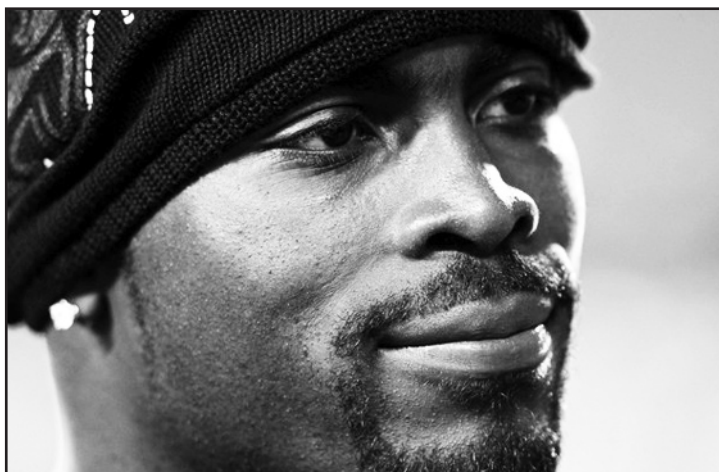
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## Eagle's pitchman Vick in new deal despite jail time



PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (AFP) – Philadelphia Eagles star Michael Vick, who lost NFL riches and went to prison after becoming reviled for killing dogs in gruesome fashion, is once again endorsing corporate products.

Vick on Tuesday signed his first pitchman deal since serving 18 months in federal prison for his financing role in a dogfight gambling conspiracy, a two-year contract with gridiron padding producer Unequal Technologies (UT).

"We're real excited about it," UT chief executive officer Rob Vito said.

"Michael is good people. He paid his dues. President (Barack) Obama reached out to him. He deserves an opportunity. This is what makes America so great."

Vick wore a vest from Unequal after missing three games with a rib injury this season and later wore the firm's shoulder and thigh pads.

When playing for the Atlanta Falcons, Vick was the NFL's top-paid player and a star for six seasons, but his 2007 arrest and the spiral that followed left him despised by many, particularly by dog lovers, after court documents revealed how he brutally killed losing dogs.

Vick returned to the NFL in 2009 when the Eagles signed him and he worked his way into a starting role last season, leading Philadelphia into the playoffs.

Vick appeared in a car commercial last month but only in exchange for the use of a vehicle.

## League boss will cut salary to a dollar in shutdown

NEW YORK (AFP) – National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell will slash his salary, 10 million dollars a year with bonuses, to one dollar if there is a work shutdown after a union contract with players expires.

Goodell, who made the vow in a memo Wednesday to his staff, also wants a delay in bonus money paid to him until after a new contract is hammered out with the NFL Players Association to replace one expiring on March 4.

Jeff Pash, chief negotiator for the league in talks with the players union, also will cut his annual pay to one dollar from five million dollars a year, Goodell said.

"We are fully committed to doing everything possible to reach a new collective bargaining agreement without any disruption to our business," Goodell said.

Union leader DeMaurice Smith expects owners to lock out players once the labor deal expires. The deadline was set in place after owners opted out of the pacc in 2008.

The NFL reportedly has clauses in its television contracts that will provide funding for league teams even if no games are being played, the income to be taken from future payments when games do resume.

Union leaders have advised players to begin saving money for a labor dispute since owners opted out of the contract, expecting a protracted fight over how to divide hefty profits between millionaire players and billionaire owners.

## Bosh ankle absence stretching past two weeks

MIAMI (AFP) – Miami Heat forward Chris Bosh will not travel to New York for Thursday's NBA game against the Knicks because of a sprained left ankle and it appears his absence will stretch beyond two weeks.

Bosh, hurt on January 15 in a loss to the Chicago Bulls, has an unclear timetable to return to a star-studded Heat lineup that also includes LeBron James and Dwyane Wade.

Bosh, averaging 18.6 points and 8.2 rebounds, joined Miami this season to

be part of the all-star trio and try and secure an NBA crown.

But Bosh also is not expected to play Friday against Detroit.

His status remains uncertain for the last two games in a rough stretch of four games in five days that also includes games at Oklahoma City on Sunday and at home against Cleveland on Monday.

Miami stands atop the Southeast division at 31-13 and ranks second overall to the Boston Celtics in the Eastern Conference.



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## Obama eats humble pie over beloved Bears



**US President Barack Obama receives a jersey of Green Bay Packers NFL football player Charles Woodson. AFP PHOTO MANITOWOC, Wisconsin (AFP)** – President Barack Obama took a merciless ribbing Wednesday in the fevered heartland of the National Football League's Green Bay Packers days after they crushed the Super Bowl dreams of his beloved Chicago Bears.

"Let me begin by clearing something up. I am not here because I lost a bet," Obama told a crowd in the football-crazed midwestern state following Green Bay's 21-14 triumph over local rival Chicago.

"Sunday was a tough day for Bears fans. But even if it didn't go the way I wanted, I'm glad to see one of the

greatest rivalries in sports is still there - and we will get you you next year," Obama said.

"Congratulations, and in the spirit of sportsmanship, let me just say this: congratulations, and good luck in the Super Bowl."

Obama found he would not be able to escape Packers fever as soon as he landed at chilly Green Bay airport.

Obama was greeted by Wisconsin Governor Scott

Walker and the local mayor James Schmitt, who each presented the president with a Green Bay jersey.

One bore the signature, and a cheeky prediction from from Packers cornerback Charles Woodson, that he would see the president at the annual ceremonial reception to toast the Super Bowl champions.

"See you at the White House... Go Packers!" Woodson wrote, prompting Obama to declare that the Green Bay contingent was "rubbing it in!"

Green Bay advanced to the Super Bowl in Texas on February 6 with the win over the Bears in their NFL semi-final game on Sunday and will face the Pittsburgh Steelers.

## Nadal's 'Rafa Slam' ends in heartache

MELBOURNE (AFP) - World number one Rafael Nadal hobbled to a shock straight-sets Australian Open defeat to David Ferrer Wednesday, ending his bid for an historic sweep of the Grand Slam titles.

The grimacing Nadal was in trouble right from the second game, but despite repeated medical attention and a strapped left thigh he grimly battled to a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 quarter-final loss.

Nadal's defeat comes on the exact anniversary of last year's injury pull-out in the quarter-finals against Andy Murray, which also came on Australia Day as celebratory fireworks lit up the Melbourne night sky.

"I hate retirements, so this wasn't the day to retire," an emotional Nadal said afterwards, explaining his decision to soldier on. "I did it last year. I hate that moment. I didn't want to repeat that."

The demise of Nadal, 24, halts his quest for the "Rafa Slam", a non-calendar year Grand Slam which would have united the four major titles for the first time since Rod Laver in 1969.

Nadal stands at nine Grand Slam titles and is the youngest man to win all four of the big tournaments. He said he thought he may have a small muscle tear, but added that it did not seem to be serious.

"This is one of the bad ones, one of the negative moments," he said. "That's part of the sport. I think I am a



**Nadal Rafael Nadal of Spain crouches on the court**

very, very lucky sportsman with what happened in my career."

"It's not possible be all the time at 100 percent," Nadal added. "It's not possible all the time to have all the positive factors together to win in every tournament."

Spain's Ferrer will face Andy Murray in Friday's semi-final after the British fifth seed outgunned rising star Alexandr Dolgoplov. Ferrer has a 3-2 winning record against Murray but has never beaten him on hardcourt.

Murray, last year's runner-up to Roger Federer, dropped his first set of the year against Ukrainian shot-maker Dolgoplov, 22, who dominated a third-set tie-break before going down 7-5, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3.

Murray, 23, is now into his fifth Grand Slam semi-final as he bids to break a British men's major drought stretch-

ing back to Fred Perry's 1936 US Open win.

Earlier in the women's event three-time Grand Slam-winner Kim Clijsters beat Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) to set up a heavyweight semi-final with world number two Vera Zvonareva, who downed Petra Kvitova 6-2, 6-4.

Zvonareva wore a black ribbon on her cap in mourning for victims of Monday's deadly suicide bombing at Domodedovo airport in Moscow, her home city, which killed 35 and left her frantically calling relatives.

The 26-year-old remains on course for her third straight Grand Slam final, after losing to Serena Williams at Wimbledon and Clijsters at the US Open in September.

Clijsters overcame a high error-rate to see off Radwanska, who played a limited game but stayed in the match with some scrambling defence, taking advantage of the Belgian's 37 unforced errors.

"Everything has to be better (against Zvonareva)," said Clijsters, who beat the Russian in September's US Open final. "I mean, serving, returning, the unforced errors. Everything has to be better."

World number one Caroline Wozniacki will face China's Li Na in Thursday's other semi-final, while defending champion Federer plays third seed Novak Djokovic in a mouth-watering men's last-four match-up.

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